CONTENTS

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)
- Corruption
- Drug Trafficking
- Trafficking in Scarce or Protected Resources
- Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration
- Organized Crime

PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)
- Internet Governance
- Internet Freedom
- Privacy and Security
- Cyber Statecraft
- Cyber Capacity Building
- Cybercrime
- Protection of Critical Infrastructure
- Mass Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)
- ISIS and Foreign Fighters
- Terrorism Around the World
- Irregular Warfare: Disinformation and Malign Influence
- Irregular Warfare: Cyber
COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME (CTOC)

CORRUPTION

Austria’s Kurz under investigation by anti-corruption prosecutors
Laurenz Gehrke – Politico: 12 May 2021
Anti-corruption prosecutors are investigating Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz over possible false testimony to a parliamentary commission investigating the fallout from the so-called Ibiza sting video that felled a previous government.

Form Over Substance? UK Anti-Corruption Sanctions Are No Substitute for Action
Tom Keatinge – Royal United Services Institute: 12 May 2021
To be a force for good, the United Kingdom’s anti-corruption sanctions must be paired with seizing and returning stolen assets to benefit deprived citizens.
https://rusi.org/commentary/form-over-substance-uk-anti-corruption-sanctions-are-no-substitute-action

For more on this theme:
Whistleblowers are being scared into silence, hampering efforts to expose corruption in Australia, research finds
https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/apr/30/australias-whistleblowers-are-being-scared-into-silence-by-significant-gaps-in-protections-research-finds

US targets Central America officials for possible sanctions over corruption: envoy
https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202105/1222795.shtml

Karpowership denies corruption allegations and threatens to withdraw integral energy supply to Lebanon

Qatar finance minister arrested in corruption investigation
https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-qatar-arrests-business-eb4712950836b4e45698e6e0821f5ae6

Qatar’s amir abolishes immunity for ministers amid fight against corruption
https://www.dohanews.co/qatars-amir-abolishes-immunity-for-ministers-amid-fight-against-corruption/

Corruption, economic woes spark deadly protests in Colombia

Corruption, an Unnecessary Evil

Police In Russia’s Tatarstan Jail, Fine Journalists Reporting On Corruption
https://www.rferl.org/a/tatarstan-jail-journalists-reporting-corruption/31250813.html
DRUG TRAFFICKING

‘A dirty business’: how one drug is turning Syria into a narco-state
Martin Chulov – The Guardian: 7 May 2021
The manufacture of the drug Captagon is a growth industry so big it is starting to rival Syria’s gross domestic product.
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/07/drug-captagon-turning-syria-into-narco-state

Mexico’s cartels are experimenting with control of another part of the cocaine trade
Luis Chaparro – Business Insider: 7 May 2021
Mexican drug cartels’ longstanding attempts to bring coca plantations out of South America and onto their turf may be bearing fruit.

For more on this theme:
Review of the 64th Commission on Narcotic Drugs
https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/64-cnd-review/

Has Honduras become a ‘narco-state’?

The rise of Brazil’s neo-Pentecostal narco-militia

China issues total ban on synthetic cannabinoids
https://apnews.com/article/china-health-f093206666969b3cd748a47964de7ae0

Understanding the nature and threats of drug trafficking to national and regional security in West Africa

5 Animals Used to Smuggle Drugs in Latin America
https://insightcrime.org/news/animals-used-smuggle-drugs-latin-america/

How has the drugs trade reached every corner of Ireland, and who is involved?

Afghanistan is being overrun by crystal meth as US begins withdrawal
https://www.businessinsider.com/afghanistan-is-being-overrun-by-crystal-meth-2021-5

Inside Harare’s drug syndicates
https://www.sundaymail.co.zw/inside-harares-drug-syndicates

Opioid crisis: New evidence shows how ‘medication-assisted treatment’ saves lives and money
TRAFFICKING IN SCARCE OR PROTECTED RESOURCES

From tigers to chimpanzees, how cute social media videos could be driving the exotic pet trade
Lea Gordon and James Purtill – ABC: 9 May 2021

“People don’t realize that dealing with these animals in the way they are being handled in these videos is not only an issue for biosecurity ... but also a conservation issue and a welfare issue,” said Anne-Lise Chaber of the University of Adelaide, co-author of a recent study.

VIDEO: Deadly shootout in Brazil’s Amazon as illegal miners enter indigenous lands
Cecilia Jamasmie – Mining.com: 11 May 2021

Illegal gold miners inside a protected area in the Brazilian Amazon fired automatic weapons at an Indigenous community, local leaders say.

For more on this theme:

3D Printed Shark Fins to Help Customs Officials Detect Real Ones

South African dehorning initiative aims for ‘zero poached’ white rhinos

NGO’s Fear EU Weakening Illegal Logging Regulations

Cambodia Sentences Five Environmental Activists to Jail For ‘Incitement’

In Project Amazônia 2.0, communities and technology team up for nature

Malawian President Eyes Mining as Key Money Maker
https://www.voanews.com/africa/malawi-president-eyes-mining-key-money-maker

The plight of South Africa’s ‘Zama Zama’ illegal miners

Illegal Fishing Is a National Security Problem

Fishing in Dangerous Waters: A New Flashpoint for Latin America and China

Dirty Business – The Smuggling Pipeline Carrying Mercury Across the Amazon
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Balkan Migrant-Smuggling Business ‘Worth €50m a Year’: Report
Milica Stojanovic – Balkan Insight: 10 May 2021

The money to be made by “fixers,” “gatekeepers” and “package dealers” smuggling migrants across borders in the Western Balkans are detailed in a new report from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime.

https://balkaninsight.com/2021/05/10/balkan-migrant-smuggling-business-worth-e50m-a-year-report/

Full report:
Spot Prices: Analyzing flows of people, drugs and money in the Western Balkans

For more on this theme:

Turning technology against human traffickers

Want to save the children? How child sexual abuse and human trafficking really work

Finland unveils dozens of measures to combat human trafficking

Human trafficking and modern slavery in Asia

‘Perfect storm’ for human traffickers tough to reverse, say groups
https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/05/13/perfect-storm-for-human-traffickers-tough-to-reverse-say-groups/

How the #UNODC is Fighting Human Trafficking during the pandemic
https://www.newsfirst.lk/2021/05/10/how-the-unodc-is-fighting-human-trafficking-during-the-pandemic/

Spotlight on Brazil: What Works to Address Modern Slavery
https://www.cfr.org/blog/spotlight-brazil-what-works-address-modern-slavery

Sudan faces persistent human smuggling, trafficking from Ethiopia

How smugglers seduce Central American migrants with the ‘American Dream’
ORGANIZED CRIME

Interpol's New App Combats Art Crime and Protects Cultural Heritage
Nora McGreevy – Smithsonian Magazine: 12 May 2021

Interpol introduced a new app that can help law enforcement and the public fight art and antiquities trafficking. The ID-Art app uses image recognition software that can identify whether an item is part of Interpol’s extensive database of looted art and antiquities.


For more on this theme:

Fighting the menace of criminal counterfeiting

Mozambique: Experts Say Illicit Trade Has Shifted Out of War Zone
https://allafrica.com/stories/202105070745.html

Women Taking Bigger Role in Central America Extortion Schemes

Gang Made Millions Selling Fake Saffron as High-Quality Product

https://dailycaller.com/2021/05/10/guerro-mexico-drug-cartel/
PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY STUDIES (PCSS)

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Working towards a fairer internet governance
Joe Mathews – Bangkok Post: 10 May 2021
Today’s methods for governing the internet do not constitute a coherent system, much less a democratic one.
https://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/2112951/working-towards-a-fairer-internet-governance

For more on this theme:

(China, Global) China wants to patent a decentralized blockchain DNS
https://domainnamewire.com/2021/05/10/china-wants-to-patent-a-decentralized-blockchain-dns/

INTERNET FREEDOM

Africa, the internet and youth organizing
Jehron Muhammad – The Final Call: 11 May 2021
Autocratic leaders in Africa are increasingly relying on internet shutdowns to mitigate young people’s use of social media to mobilize against post-colonial political structures.

For more on this theme:

(Global) The Internet, An Emerging Battlefield For Human Rights?
https://www.cio.co.ke/the-internet-an-emerging-battlefield-for-human-rights/

(China) Two face trial as China enforces online control amid pandemic
https://nypost.com/2021/05/10/two-face-trial-as-china-enforces-online-control-amid-pandemic/

(U.K.) U.K. Adds Anti-‘Censorship’ Clause to Online Safety Bill
PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Germany just banned WhatsApp’s new privacy policy, and all of the EU might be next
Manuel Vonau – Android Police: 12 May 2021
Facebook isn’t allowed to process personal data from WhatsApp for its own purposes in Germany.

For more on this theme:
(Global) The Secret World of Cybersecurity
(Global) Securing the Internet of Things in the Age of Quantum Computing

(U.S.) Senate Bill Would Expand Federal Children’s Privacy Protections

CYBER STATECRAFT

Tech-tonic shift in Sino-Russian cooperation
Nivedita Kapoor – Observer Research Foundation: 12 May 2021
Technological cooperation has increasingly gained significance in the Russia-China relationship, with 2020-21 marked as the “Year of Scientific, Technical and Innovation Cooperation.”

For more on this theme:
(Global) How the Dictator’s Digital Dilemma Constrains Leaders’ Choices
https://www.cfr.org/blog/how-dictators-digital-dilemma-constrains-leaders-choices
(Global) Biden needs to counter Russia and China to secure our digital future
(U.K., Global) Britain to harness new cyber powers in pursuit of hostile states and terrorists
CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

FACTBOX-Italy’s superfast broadband roll-out: the issues
Reuters: 6 May 2021

Italy wants to speed up the rollout of all-fiber, ultrafast broadband coverage to boost productivity and close a gap with major European rivals.

For more on this theme:

(U.S.) Rural Internet Access: How To Get Broadband Across America
https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2021/04/30/rural-access-to-the-internet-how-to-get-broadband-across-america

(U.S.) Civilian Cyber Reserve Program Proposed
https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/civilian-cyber-reserve-program-proposed-a-16486

CYBERCRIME

Cybercrime a booming business — thanks to COVID
Marcel Fürstenau – Deutsche Welle: 11 May 2021

The coronavirus pandemic has given a huge boost to internet crime. Offenses are increasing while the number of solved cases is stagnating in Germany.

For more on this theme:

(U.K., Global) Ransomware: Don't pay up, it just shows cyber criminals that attacks work, warns home secretary

(U.K., Global) UK to fund national cyber teams in Global South

(Russia, U.K.) Russia must do more to tackle cyber criminals operating from within its borders, says UK
PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Colonial cyberattack exposes years of infrastructure underinvestment
David Jones – Construction Dive: 12 May 2021

The risk to critical infrastructure is a long-festering concern in the cybersecurity industry. Researchers, corporate security officers and government experts feared that energy producers, utilities and water systems lacked the personnel and investment in security. The risk increased with the exposure of industrial control systems to the open internet.


For more on this theme:
(U.S.) Biden signs executive order designed to strengthen federal digital defenses

(U.K.) Spy bosses warn of cyber-attacks on smart cities

(GLOBAL) Critical Infrastructure Under Attack
https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/critical-infrastructure-under-attack-/a/d-id/1340960

MASS SURVEILLANCE AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING

China’s ‘social credit’ system ranks citizens and punishes them with throttled internet speeds and flight bans if the Communist Party deems them untrustworthy
Alexandra Ma and Katie Canales – Business Insider: 9 May 2021

The Chinese Communist Party has been constructing a moral ranking system to monitor the behavior of its enormous population — and rank them all based on their "social credit."

PROGRAM ON TERRORISM AND SECURITY STUDIES (PTSS)

ISIS AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS

UN Team Says Islamic State Committed Genocide Against Yazidis
Voice of America: 10 May 2021
Experts say they have convincing evidence that ISIS committed genocide “against the Yazidi as a religious group.”

French admiral: Air power helps root out ‘underground’ ISIS
Menelaos Hadjicostis – The Associated Press: 10 May 2021
A French military leader said that ISIS is “regenerating” with stealth by developing its military capabilities underground. France is sending warships and aircraft to Syria and Iraq to examine the threat the group poses.
https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-persian-gulf-tensions-europe-business-health-cf1d7b175d-4748044c04fbbaf1d311c

For more on this theme:

Civilians flee surging ISIS in Diyala
https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/030520212

The ISIS Files: The Islamic State’s Department of Soldiers
https://isisfiles.gwu.edu/downloads?q237hr95t?locale=en

Following Deadly Attack, Iraqi Kurds Call for Better Coordination in Countering IS
https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/following-deadly-attack-iraqi-kurds-call-better-coordination-countering

Security expert: expect ISIS attacks using children during Ramadan and into summer

Uzbekistan repatriates 93 women, children from Syrian camp

Afghanistan to Discuss Fate of Foreign IS Prisoners with Their Countries
https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/afghanistan-discuss-fate-foreign-prisoners-their-countries

‘ISIS not just regional terror outfit but global syndicate’

UN: ISIS used chemical and biological weapons against Iraqis
TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

**Terrorists target religious groups in Afghanistan**

*ANI: 13 May 2021*

The 2020 International Religious Freedom Report released by the United States revealed that terrorist groups in Afghanistan continued to target religious and ethnoreligious groups.


**Al-Shabaab distributes Eid al-Fitr gifts in town it seized from Somali army**

*Garowe Online: 11 May 2021*

Al-Shabaab terrorists are trying to win favor by distributing gifts in a town they seized from the Somali Army.


*For more on this theme:*

**Attorney general calls for more funding to combat domestic terrorism**

[https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/attorney-general-calls-increased-funding-combat-domestic-terrorism-n1266315](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/attorney-general-calls-increased-funding-combat-domestic-terrorism-n1266315)

**Report to Congress on State Sponsored Terrorism**

[https://news.usni.org/2021/05/04/report-to-congress-on-state-sponsored-terrorism](https://news.usni.org/2021/05/04/report-to-congress-on-state-sponsored-terrorism)

**Al Qaeda promises ‘war on all fronts’ against America as Biden pulls out of Afghanistan**


**Don’t expect an al-Qaida reboot in Afghanistan**

[https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/05/04/dont-expect-an-al-qaida-reboot-in-afghanistan/](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/05/04/dont-expect-an-al-qaida-reboot-in-afghanistan/)

**Why insurgent groups in northern Nigeria continue to kidnap school children**


**US Hails Afghan Eid Cease-fire, Suspects Islamic State Executed School Bombing**


**Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan: Is China in its Crosshairs?**


**Hefazat-e-Islam Sub-Group ‘Manhazi’ Members Trained In Afghanistan: Bangladesh Police**

IRREGULAR WARFARE: DISINFORMATION AND MALIGN INFLUENCE

How the US Can Protect the Sovereignty of the Smallest Pacific Islands
Alexander B. Gray – The Diplomat: 7 May 2021

As the United States government confronts China’s growing assertiveness, the challenges confronting the smallest Pacific island nations should be front of mind.

https://thediplomat.com/2021/05/how-the-us-can-protect-the-sovereignty-of-the-smallest-pacific-islands/

For more on this theme:

Russian Attempts to Expand Sputnik Vaccine Set Off Discord in Europe
https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/02/world/europe/russia-slovakia-europe-coronavirus-sputnik-vaccine.html

Chinese propaganda outlet makes fresh attack on Australia

China and Russia’s Dangerous Convergence
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-05-03/china-and-russias-dangerous-convergence

Why African countries back China on human rights

Beijing’s Woke Propaganda War in America
https://www.hoover.org/research/beijings-woke-propaganda-war-america

IRREGULAR WARFARE: CYBER

Army of fake fans boosts China’s messaging on Twitter

The Chinese Communist Party has opened a new front in its long, ambitious war to shape global public opinion: Western social media.


For more on this theme:

Cyber Command shifts counterterrorism task force to focus on higher-priority threats
https://www.militarytimes.com/cyber/2021/05/04/cyber-command-shifts-counterterrorism-task-force-to-focus-on-higher-priority-threats/

Kim Jong-un’s school for hackers: Recruited as young children, hothoused in training camps and unleashed to wage digital war. TOM LEONARD details how North Korea’s elite cyber-attackers are wreaking havoc across the world... and even crippling the NHS